to see if this work also can be done by the C. I. D. Inssector.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I don't quite follow. The work of the Traffic Superintendent who was, till confirmation, a full time officer is now given to the C. I. D. Officer who, though his hands are not full with that work, still has got some work to do. So how is this managed?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—As a measure of retrenchment we are trying this experiment and we hope that he will be able to cope with the work. If on experience it is found that he will not be able to cope with the work, the question of reviving the old arrangement will be considered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was there any request from the C. I. D. officer to give him any extra remuneration?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is no such request from anybody. It was all done by the Government on its own initiative.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—While he was the C. I. D. officer was there any request from him for increase of his pay?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No such thing.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is he paid any amount now for the extra work that he does in the Traffic line?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—He is paid Rs. 25 allowance. That amount he would get even otherwise. At present if he is working in the field section he is entitled to get that amount. So we did not want him to lose that amount by taking up this work. He was a senior Inspector and he was doing efficient work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was it on that account that he was paid Rs. 25?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Probably all these considerations might have come in.

Strike in Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills.

343. **Mr. Paul Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there was a strike of workmen in the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ltd., Trichur;

(b) how long did the strike last;

(c) what were the causes of the strike;

(d) what steps, if any, were taken by the Government to settle differences between the employer and the employees in the Mills;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(c) to what extent is the Mills financially indebted to the Government ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) 24 days.

(c) The Spindle boys, about 100 in number, were asked by the management to attend to 120 spindles a day instead of 100. This change they did not like and they struck work from first Thulam 1109. The management did not yield and the workers in other branches also struck work to show their sympathy.

(d) The Magistracy and the Police were closely watching the situation. The strikers were also being watched with a view to prevent demonstrations and consequent disturbances. There were no untoward incidents and the strike ended peacefully, the workmen resuming work on the management and the workers agreeing to settle their differences amicably through mediation of some respectable gentlemen.

(e) In the interests of the Mill, Government do not consider it desirable to publish such information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is that mediation effected with reference to (d)?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim— What is the settlement that was arrived at?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim—May I know whether any point has been favourably considered to the labourers?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It has been peacefully settled.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim—You are perhaps refering to the resumption of work. You have said here "and the workers agreeing to settle their differences amicably through the mediation of some respectable gentlemen". May I know whether this has been effected?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—You mean increase in wages?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim—What was the subject of mediation which has been mentioned here?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—On certain points I know. They made certain requests. Whether it is on the question of wages or organisation, I cannot say definitely. But some of the requests have been granted by the management and they have resumed work.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim—With reference to (e) is it only an ordinary debt or grant-in-aid from the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is a loan.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Has this Council no right to know the investments of the State?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Council is quite at liberty to know the investments of the State.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the rate of interest on this loan?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know on what grounds the Government have taken up the position "In the interests of the Mill, Government do not consider it desirable to publish such information"?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not know what more is required.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—We want to know how much Government money is due.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We have replied that it is not possible to give the information. It is something affecting a contract. Is it fair on the part of the House to ask for the information about the transaction?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Why not take it so far as the Government revenue is concerned? We have perfect right to know how much money you have invested. We want to know how much public revenue has been given to that concern.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have not got those figures at present here.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is not that investment safe?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Nothing has come to the notice of the Government that it is unsafe.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the total number of labourers that struck work?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—With reference to (d). The question is "what steps, if any, were taken by the Government to settle differences between the employer and the employees in the Mills". In the answer we don't find any step taken by Government to settle differences.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That simply means that Government did not desire to step in in preference to the gentlemen who mediated, as the strike ended peacefully and the differences were patched up.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Am I to take it that the Government did not take any step for settling the differences between the employers and the employees?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have answered the question. In this instance, there was no circumstance which called for the intervention of the Government.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I am not asking for the justification. I am only asking whether I would not be right in assum-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ing that the Government did nothing in this instance to settle the differences amicably.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—In this instance the Government did not intervene. It is quite true.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is not a big instance of strike an occasion for Government's mediation?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I dont' think.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—In as much as it is a matter concerning a large number of labourers is it not incumbent on the part of the Government to interfere?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Sir, the Hon'ble Member has exaggerated the situation. They had some small differences between the management and in the absence of a Board of Conciliation respectable gentlemen of the locality intervened and a peaceful settlement was arrived at. The Government did not see why they should interfere.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—While the strike was going on was there any occasion for the Government to look into the matter about the cause of the strike, its progress and the grievances of the labourers and all that?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is it not a fact that some of the Government members unofficially interfered and settled the matter?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—They did not interfere. I, just out of curiosity, because I have no other authority, wanted to know whether there was any grave situation. The retired Director of Public Instruction was one of the members who worked for this conciliatory purpose. The Hon'ble Member for Cheruthuruthy was one of the members who tried to bring about peace. I just wanted to know whether there was a grave situation because as the Hon'ble Members know it is very doubtful, particularly in our present condition, to say whether the Mill strike has not something to do with industries. I am nebulously connected with industries also.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—At least on future occasions of labour strike has the Government any objection to make itself conversant with the *bona fides* or otherwise of their grievances and see what they can do for an amicable settlement?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I don't think we have got any legal provision under which we can do it. There is no authority invested in the Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—At least have they not a moral obligation if not a legal obligation?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Hon'ble Member will remember that the moral obligation of the Government has been fully discharged.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly